

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Applicant respectfully submits for entry the following amendments to the Specification:

p. 1, paragraph 1, lines 10-22: Related Art

Please replace the first paragraph on p. 1, lines 10-22 in the Related Art section with the following paragraph:

10 Patients today needing a continuous flow of oxygen, whether in a hospital or for home
11 use, are limited as to the type of apparatuses available. At present, a patient receives oxygen
12 through a conventional nasal cannula, see ~~Figure of Prior Art~~ FIG. 1A showing the Prior Art,
13 wherein oxygen is delivered to the patient's nostrils through a pair of one half inch long nasal
14 prongs extending from a thin tubing – one prong being inserted in each nostril. The two ends of
15 the thin tubing of the nasal cannula are connected to an oxygen source by a predefined length of
16 conventional, thicker tubing. The nasal cannula is held in place on a patient by the thin tubing
17 which is hung, or looped, around the patient's neck or ears. The nasal cannula is further held in
18 place by sliding a small piece of plastic attached to the thin tubing toward the patient's head and
19 neck, wherein both ends of the thin tubing are inserted through the piece of plastic. As the piece
20 of plastic gets close to the patient's head and neck, the tighter the tubing becomes, thereby
21 holding the nasal prongs within the patient's nostrils. The piece of plastic is held in position on a
22 desired point of the thin tubing of the nasal cannula by friction.

p. 4, paragraph 3, lines 19-28: Summary of the Invention

Please replace the third paragraph on p. 4, lines 19-28 in the Summary of the Invention with the following text:

19 The nasal mask assembly also includes a means for securing the nasal cup over the
20 patient's nose. In the preferred embodiment, the means for securing the nasal cup is a fastening
21 mechanism connected to the sides of the nasal cup. For example, the fastening mechanism is
22 two straps, one strap attached to each side of the nasal cup, adapted for securing together behind

23 the patient's head. The straps are detachably secured together at their distal ends by conventional
24 means, such as with detachable clips, hooks, ~~Velcro®~~ VELCRO® hook and loop fasteners, or
25 similar connectors. Furthermore, the straps are made of an elastic material in order to
26 comfortably hold the nasal cup to the patient's head. In alternative embodiments, the means for
27 securing is one strap that fits around the patient's head, one or more straps adapted for securing
28 the nasal cup to a patient's ears, such as with eyewear, or an adhesive along the interior perimeter
29 of the nasal cup.

p. 5, lines 19-20: Brief Description of the Drawings

Please replace the sentence on p. 5, lines 19-20 in the Brief Description of the Drawings with the following text:

19 FIG. 1A is a perspective view of a prior art nasal cannula;
20 ~~FIG. 1~~ FIG. 1B is a perspective view of the front of a nasal mask assembly of one
21 embodiment of the present invention;

p. 6, paragraph 1, lines 2-7: Embodiments of the Invention

Please replace the first paragraph on p. 6, lines 2-7 with the following text:

2 As shown in ~~the drawings~~ FIG. 1B and FIGS. 2-5, the present invention is a nasal mask
3 assembly 100 for delivering a fluid from a fluid source 504 into a patient's 302 nostrils 306a and
4 306b. The present invention is described in terms of a patient 302 using the nasal mask
5 assembly 100 for receiving a direct flow of oxygen, but this is for convenience purpose only. It
6 would be readily apparent for one of ordinary skill in the relevant art to use the nasal mask
7 assembly 100 of the present invention for delivering alternative fluids to a patient, such as,
8 breathable air and an anesthesia.

p. 6, paragraph 3, lines 15-26

Please replace the third paragraph on p. 6, lines 15-26 with the following text:

15 A nasal delivery system is in fluid communication with the internal end **120** of the input
16 port **122** and is contained within the internal cavity **124** of the nasal cup **102**. The nasal delivery
17 system provides fluid, e.g., oxygen, directly into the patient's ~~**302**~~ nostrils **306a** and **306b**. In the
18 preferred embodiment, the nasal delivery system comprises a pair of nasal prongs ~~**118a,b**~~ **118a**
19 **and 118b** and a delivery tube **116**, all of which are in fluid communication with the internal end
20 **120** of the input port **122**. In particular, the delivery tube **116** is generally horizontal in position,
21 such that when a patient is wearing the nasal cup **102**, the delivery tube **116** extends along a
22 generally horizontal axis under his/her nose. The internal end **120** of the input port **122** is about
23 centrally attached to the delivery tube **116**. In addition, the ends of the delivery tube **116** are
24 preferably open such that oxygen flowing through the nasal delivery system flows directly into
25 the nasal prongs ~~**118a,b**~~, **118a and 118b**, as well as, directly into in internal cavity **124** of the
26 nasal cup **102**. However, in an alternative embodiment, the ends of the delivery tube **116** may be
27 closed.

p. 6, paragraph 4, line 27 through p. 7, line 6

Please replace the fourth paragraph starting on p. 6, line 27 and continuing to p. 7, line 6 with the following text:

27 The nasal prongs ~~**118a,b**~~, **118a and 118b** are connected to the delivery tube **116** such
28 that they extend away from the delivery tube **116** and into the internal cavity **124** of the nasal
29 cup **102**. The nasal prongs ~~**118a,b**~~, **118a and 118b** may be straight or may have a slight curve
30 to improve the comfort to a patient **302**. The preferred length of each nasal prong ~~**118a,b**~~, **118a**
31 **and 118b** is about one inch in length, and the preferred distance between the nasal prongs ~~**118a,**~~
32 ~~**b**~~, **118a and 118b** is about one half of an inch to about one inch. In addition, one nasal prong
33 **118a** is positioned on the delivery tube **116** on one side **202** of the input port **122**, while the
34 second nasal prong **118b** is positioned on the delivery tube **116** on the second side **204** of the
35 input port **122**.

p. 7, paragraph 1, lines 7-14

Please replace the first paragraph on p. 7, lines 7-14 with the following text:

7 The delivery tube **116** is shown as being located along the bottom edge of the nasal cup
8 **102** and as having a length about equal to the length of the bottom edge of the nasal cup **102**,
9 which is preferably about two inches in length, but this is for convenience. In an alternative
10 embodiment, the delivery tube **116** may be shorter in length, such as the distal ends of the
11 delivery tube **116** terminate at the nasal prongs ~~**118a, b,**~~ **118a and 118b**. In addition, the
12 delivery tube **116** may have a different orientation, and be located elsewhere, within the nasal
13 cavity **124**. In another alternative embodiment, the nasal delivery system does not have a
14 delivery tube **116** wherein the nasal prongs ~~**118a, b,**~~ **118a and 118b** are connected directly to the
15 internal end **120** of the input port **122**.

p. 7, paragraph 2, lines 15-25

Please replace the second paragraph on p. 7, lines 15-25 with the following text:

15 The nasal mask assembly **100** also includes a source tube system **110** in fluid
16 communication with the external end **114** of the input port **122** of the nasal cup **102**. That is, a
17 first end **112** of the source tube system **110** is connected to, and is in fluid communication with ,
18 the external end **114** of the input port **122**. A distal end of the source tube system **110** is
19 connected to, and is in fluid communication with, the fluid source **504**, e.g., an oxygen source.
20 The fluid is delivered from the fluid source **504**, through the source tube system **110** and input
21 port **122**, and into the patient's **302** nostrils **306a and 306b** through the nasal prongs ~~**118a, b,**~~
22 **118a and 118b**. In the preferred embodiment, the source tube system **110** is a conventional
23 oxygen delivery tube having a connector **506** on its distal end for connecting to an oxygen tank.
24 The source tube system **110** also has one or more tube connectors **502** and one more sections of
25 tubing ~~**508a, b,**~~ **508a and 508b** as needed to reach a desired length of tubing between the patient
26 **302** and the fluid source **504**.

p.8, paragraph 1, lines 1-12

Please replace the first paragraph starting on p. 8, lines 1-12 with the following text:

1 The nasal mask system **100** also includes a means for securing the nasal cup **102** over the
2 patient's **302** nose. In the preferred embodiment, the means for securing the nasal cup **102** is a
3 fastening mechanism connected to the nasal cup **102**. As shown in the figures FIG. 2, the
4 fastening mechanism may be two straps ~~**106a, b, 106a and 106b**~~ adapted for fitting behind a
5 patient's **302** head. A first strap **106a** is attached to one side of the nasal cup **102**, while a second
6 strap **106b** is attached to the second side of the nasal cub **102**. The straps ~~**106a, b, 106a and**~~
7 ~~**106b**~~ are removably secured together at their distal ends by conventional means, such as by
8 tying or with detachable clips, hooks, ~~Velcro®~~ VELCRO® hook and loop fasteners, or similar
9 connectors, e.g., connectors ~~**108a, b, 108a and 108b**~~. Furthermore, the straps ~~**106a, b, 106a and**~~
10 ~~**106b**~~ are made of an elastic material in order to hold the nasal cup **102** comfortably to the
11 patient's **302** head. In alternative embodiments, the means for securing is one strap **106** that fits
12 around the patient's **302** head, as in FIG. 1B, one or more straps adapted for securing the nasal
13 cup **102** to a patient's **302** ears, such as with eyewear, or an adhesive along the interior perimeter
14 of the nasal cup **102**.

p.8, paragraph 3, line 24 through p. 9, line 3

Please replace the third paragraph on p. 8, lines 24-30 continuing through p. 9, lines 1-3 with the following text:

24 In operation, a patient **302** places a mask cup **102** of the present invention over his/her
25 nose, and once it is in property position, the patient **302** bends the means for molding, e.g., the
26 metal strip(s) **104** such that the perimeter of the nasal cup **102** follows the contours of his/her
27 face. This molding of the perimeter of the nasal cup **102** ensures a close fit against the patient's
28 skin, thereby maximizing the benefits of the oxygen being delivered to the patient **302**. Then,
29 while placing the nasal cup **102** over his/her nose a second time, the patient inserts the nasal
30 prongs ~~**118a, b, 118a and 118b**~~ into her/her nostrils and secures the straps ~~**106a, b, 106a and**~~
31 ~~**106b**~~ around his/her head. The fluid source system **110** is connected to the external end **114** of
32 the input port **122** while its distal end is connected to a fluid source **504**. Once completely

33 connected, the fluid source 504 is engaged, thereby providing the patient **302** with a direct
34 supply of the fluid, e.g., oxygen.

p. 15, lines 1-13: Abstract

The following modifications to the Abstract reduce the word count, including the title, to fewer than 150 words. Please replace the paragraph on p. 15, lines 1-13 in the Abstract with the following text:

Nasal Mask Assembly for Nasal Delivery

Abstract

1
2
3 A nasal mask assembly is configured to provide a direct flow of a fluid, e.g., breathable
4 air, oxygen or an anesthesia, directly into the patient's nasal cavity by combining the nasal
5 prongs of a nasal cannula with a nasal cup. The nasal cup is made of clear plastic and has a
6 general shape of a human nose such that it easily and comfortably fits over a patient's nose. An
7 input port extends through the nasal cup ~~wherein its internal end extends~~ into the internal cavity
8 of the nasal cup and ~~to which~~ a fluid source is connected to the input port via a source tube
9 system. The nasal cup can be molded to approximate the surface of a patient's face surrounding
10 the patient's nose. The nasal prongs are extended in length. The source tube is rotatably
11 connected to the external end of the input port of the nasal cup.